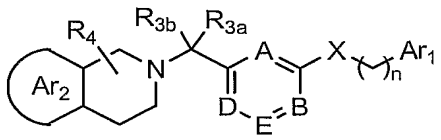
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

A, B, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N;

n is 0 or 1;

X is O, NH or CH_2.

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

represents fused phenyl or a fused 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; and

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

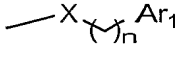
(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

and wherein if:

(i) 

is unsubstituted phenyl, di-methoxy substituted phenyl, or phenyl substituted with phenyl (C_1-C_2alkoxy); and

(ii) A, B, E, and D are each CR_2; G is a carbon atom covalently bound to the group 

, and Ar_1 is phenyl,

then Ar_1 is substituted at the position *para* to the point of attachment with a substituent other than halogen.

2. A compound or salt according to claim 1, wherein Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy.

3. A compound or salt according to claim 2, wherein Ar_1 is substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy and phenoxy.

4. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein 

represents a fused ring chosen from phenyl and pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino.

5. A compound or salt according to claim 4, wherein 

is substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents.

6. A compound or salt according to claim 5, wherein 

is substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl) and C_1-C_4alkylthio.

7. A compound or salt according to claim 6, wherein Ar_2 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy.

8. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy.

9. A compound or salt according to claim 8, wherein A, B, E, and D are each CR_2.

10. A compound or salt according to claim 10, wherein 1 or 2 of A, B, E, D is N, and the remainder are CR_2.

11. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein R_{3a} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl) or C_1-C_4haloalkyl; and R_{3b} is hydrogen.

12. A compound or salt according to claim 11, wherein R_{3a} is hydrogen or methyl; and R_{3b} is hydrogen.

13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group.

14. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein R_4 is 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy.

15. A compound or salt according to claim 14, wherein R_4 is 0 or 1 substituents chosen from methyl, ethyl, and methoxy.

16. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein n is 0.

17. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein n is 1.

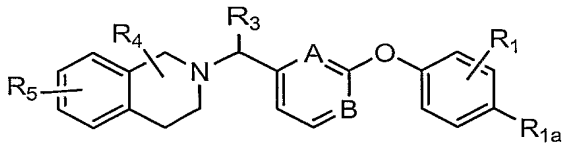
18. A compound or salt according to claim 8, wherein:

Ar_1 is phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

represents phenyl or pyridyl, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino; and

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy.

19. A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl, and phenoxy;

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

20. A compound or salt according to claim 19, wherein one of A and B is nitrogen.

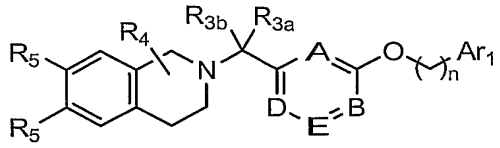
21. A compound or salt according to claim 19, wherein A and B are CH.

22. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein R_{1a} is hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy or phenoxy.

23. A compound or salt according to claim 22, wherein R_{1a} is cyano, chloro, fluoro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy or phenoxy.

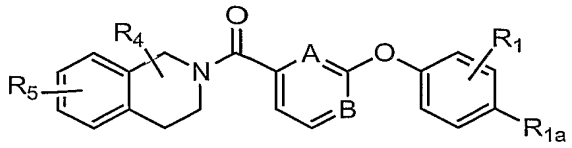
24. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 19 to 23, wherein R_5 represents 1 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino.

25. A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein each R_5 is independently chosen from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino.

26. A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

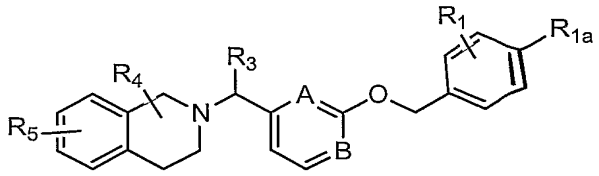
R_{1a} is hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

27. A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

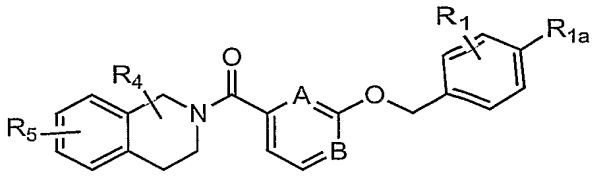
R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl, and phenoxy;

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

28. A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

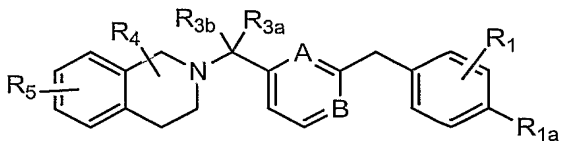
R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

29. A compound or salt according to claim 1, having the formula:



wherein:

A and B are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

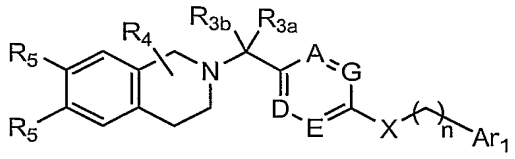
R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl and phenoxy;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 represents from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent R_5 are taken together to form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a.

30. A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof having the formula:



wherein

A, G, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N;

n is 0 or 1;

X is oxygen or CH_2;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{3a} is hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_{3b} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_5 is independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, and

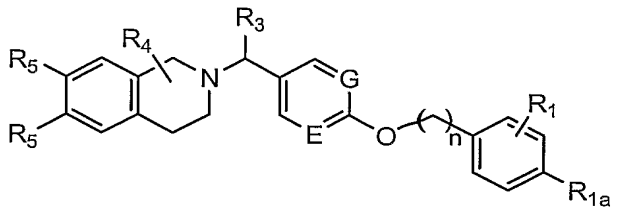
R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and —COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-

C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino.

31. A compound or salt according to claim 30, having the formula:



G and E are independently CR_2 or N;

each R_2 is independently chosen from hydrogen, halogen, amino, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl, and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy;

R_{1a} is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- or di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl or phenoxy;

R_1 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, C_1-C_6alkylthio, C_2-C_6alkyl ether, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, phenyl, and phenoxy;

R_3 is C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl or C_1-C_6haloalkyl;

R_4 represents 0, 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_2-C_4alkenyl, C_2-C_4alkynyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_2alkyl), C_1-C_4haloalkyl and C_1-C_4haloalkoxy; and

R_5 is independently chosen at each occurrence from R_a.

32. A compound or salt according to claim 30 wherein X is oxygen and A, G, D, and E are all CR_2.

33. A compound or salt according to claim 31, wherein at least one of G and E is nitrogen.

34. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33, wherein the compound exhibits a K_i of 1 micromolar or less in a MCH receptor ligand binding assay and/or an IC_{50} of 1 micromolar or less in a MCH receptor-mediated calcium mobilization assay.

35. A compound or salt according to claim 34, wherein the compound exhibits a K_i of 500 nanomolar or less in a MCH receptor ligand binding assay

36. A compound or salt according to claim 35, wherein the compound exhibits a K_i of 100 nanomolar or less in a MCH receptor ligand binding assay.

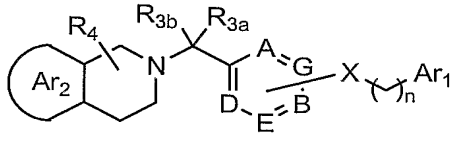
37. A compound or salt according to claim 36, wherein the compound exhibits a K_i of 10 nanomolar or less in a MCH receptor ligand binding assay.

38. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33, in combination with at least one physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient.

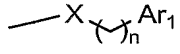
39. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 38, wherein the composition is formulated as an injectible fluid, an aerosol, a cream, a gel, a pill, a capsule, a syrup or a transdermal patch.

40. A packaged pharmaceutical preparation, comprising:

(a) a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one physiologically acceptable carrier or excipient together with a compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein:

A, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N; and one of B and G is chosen from CR_2 and N; and the other of B and G is a carbon atom covalently bound to the group  .

X is O, NH or CH_2;

n is 0 or 1;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

represents fused phenyl or a fused 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

(b) in a container; and

(c) instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from a disorder associated with MCH receptor activation.

41. A packaged pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 40, wherein the disorder is an eating disorder, sexual disorder, obesity, diabetes, heart disease or stroke.

42. A method of reducing medication error and enhancing therapeutic compliance of an individual suffering from a disorder associated with MCH receptor activation, said method comprising the steps of providing a packaged pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 40 wherein the instructions additionally include contraindication and adverse reaction information pertaining to the packaged pharmaceutical preparation.

43. A method for modulating binding of MCH to cellular MCH receptor, the method comprising contacting cells expressing MCH receptor with a compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33, in an amount sufficient to detectably modulate MCH binding to MCH receptor *in vitro*, and thereby modulating MCH binding to MCH receptor in the cells.

44. A method according to claim 43, wherein the cells are present in an animal.

45. A method according to claim 44, wherein animal is a human, the cell is a brain cell and the fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

46. A method according to claim 43, wherein the modulation is inhibition.

47. A method for modulating binding of MCH to a MCH receptor *in vitro*, the method comprising contacting MCH receptor with a compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33, under conditions and in an amount sufficient to detectably modulate MCH binding to the MCH receptor.

48. A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a MCH receptor in a cell, the method comprising contacting a cell expressing MCH receptor with a compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33, under conditions and in an amount sufficient to detectably alter the electrophysiology of the cell, and thereby altering the signal-transducing activity of MCH receptor in the cell.

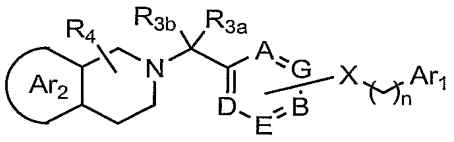
49. A method according to claim 48, wherein the cell is present in an animal.

50. A method according to claim 49, wherein animal is a human, the cell is a brain cell and the fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

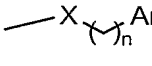
51. A method according to claim 47 wherein the modulation is inhibition.

52. A method according to claim 48, wherein the alteration in the electrophysiology of the cell is detected as a change in the animal's feeding behavior.

53. A method for treating a disease or disorder associated with MCH receptor activation, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt; wherein:

A, E, and D are independently CR_2 or N; and one of B and G is chosen from CR_2 and N; and the other of B and G is a Carbon atom covalently bound to the group: 

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X is O, NH or CH_2;

n is 0 or 1;

Ar_1 is phenyl or a 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

represents fused phenyl or a fused 6-membered aromatic heterocycle, each of which is substituted with from 0 to 4 substituents independently chosen from R_a; or two adjacent substituents are taken together to form, with the ring atoms to which they are bound, a fused 5- or 6-membered ring substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from R_a;

R_2 is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-

C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, C_1-C_6haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino;

R_{3a} and R_{3b} are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl or C_1-C_6haloalkoxy; or R_{3a} and R_{3b} are taken together to form an oxo group;

R_4 represents from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl, C_2-C_6alkynyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_6haloalkyl, and C_1-C_6haloalkoxy;

R_a is independently chosen at each occurrence from:

(i) hydroxy, halogen, amino, aminocarbonyl, cyano, nitro, and –COOH; and

(ii) C_1-C_8alkyl, C_2-C_8alkenyl, C_2-C_8alkynyl, C_1-C_8alkoxy, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl(C_0-C_4alkyl), C_1-C_8haloalkyl, C_1-C_8haloalkoxy, C_1-C_8alkanoyl, C_3-C_8alkanone, C_2-C_8alkoxycarbonyl, C_2-C_8alkanoyloxy, C_1-C_8alkylthio, C_2-C_8alkyl ether, phenylC_0-C_4alkyl, phenylC_0-C_4alkoxy, mono- and di-(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminoC_0-C_6alkyl, and (4- to 7-membered heterocycle)C_0-C_4alkyl; each of which is substituted with from 0 to 3 substituents independently chosen from hydroxy, halogen, amino, cyano, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_4haloalkyl, C_1-C_4haloalkoxy, and mono- and di-(C_1-C_4alkyl)amino.

54. A method according to claim 53, wherein the disease or disorder is an eating disorder, sexual disorder, diabetes, heart disease or stroke.

55. A method according to claim 53, wherein the compound or salt is administered orally.

56. A method according to claim 53, wherein the compound or salt is administered intranasally, intravenously or topically.

57. A method according to claim 53, wherein the patient is a human.

58. A method according to claim 53, wherein the patient is a dog or a cat.

59. A method for treating obesity, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of Claims 1 to 33.

60. A method according to claim 59, wherein the compound or salt is administered orally.

61. A method according to claim 59 or claim 60, wherein the patient is a human.

62. A method according to claim 59 or claim 60, wherein the patient is a dog or a cat.

63. A compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33, wherein the compound or salt is radiolabeled.

64. A method for determining the presence or absence of MCH receptor in a sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a sample with a compound or salt according to any one of claims 1 to 33 under conditions that permit binding of the compound or salt to MCH receptor; and

(b) detecting a level of compound or salt bound to MCH receptor, and therefrom determining the presence or absence of MCH receptor in the sample.

65. A method according to claim 64, wherein the compound or form is a radiolabeled, and wherein the step of detection comprises the steps of:

(i) separating unbound compound from bound compound; and

(ii) determining an amount of bound compound in the sample.

66. A method according to claim 65, wherein the sample is a tissue section.

67. (3-Benzyl-phenyl)-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-methanone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

68. (6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-(3-phenoxy-phenyl)-methanone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

69. (6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-[6-(2-ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-yl]-methanone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

70. (6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-[6-(3-ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-yl]-methanone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

71. 2-(3-Benzyl-benzyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

72. 2-[1-(3-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

73. 2-[1-(3-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

74. 2-[1-(3-Phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

75. 2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-3,5-dimethyl-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

76. 2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-3,5-dimethyl-phenyl)-ethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

77. 2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

78. 2-[1-(4-Benzyloxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

79. 2-[1-(4-Phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

80. 2-[2-(4-Isopropyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

81. 2-[2-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

82. 2-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

83. 2-[3-(4-Ethoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

84. 2-[3-(4-Isopropyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

85. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-2-methyl-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

86. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

87. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dichloro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

88. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-diethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

89. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,1-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

90. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

91. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

92. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-3-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

93. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6-ethoxy-7-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

94. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

95. 2-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-7-ethoxy-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

96. [2-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-yl]-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-methanone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

97. 2-[6-(2-Ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

98. 2-[6-(3-Ethyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

99. 2-[6-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-2-ylmethyl]-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

100. 2-{1-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

101. 2-{1-[3-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

102. 2-{1-[3-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

103. 2-{1-[3-(4-Chloro-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

104. 2-{1-[3-(4-Methoxy-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

105. 2-{1-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

106. 2-{1-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-6,7-dimethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

107. [3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-2-methyl-phenyl]-(6,7-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-yl)-methanone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

108. 4-[3-(6,7-Dimethoxy-3,4-dihydro-1H-isoquinolin-2-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-benzonitrile or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

109. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-(3-p-tolyloxy-benzyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

110. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[1-(3-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

111. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[1-(4-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

112. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(3,4,5-trimethoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

113. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-methoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

114. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-phenoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

115. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-trifluoromethoxy-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

116. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-[3-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

117. 6,7-Dimethoxy-2-{1-[3-(4-methoxy-phenoxy)-phenyl]-ethyl}-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

118. 6-[3-(4-*tert*-Butyl-phenoxy)-benzyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

119. 7-Ethoxy-2-[2-(4-isopropyl-phenoxy)-pyridin-4-ylmethyl]-6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

120. The use of a compound or salt according to any one of claims 1-33 for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disorder associated with MCH receptor activation

121. A use according to claim 120, wherein the disorder is an eating disorder, sexual disorder, obesity, diabetes, heart disease or stroke.